Lok Adalats in Andhra Pradesh

1528. SHRl TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUS TICE be pleased to stale

(a) the number of 'Lok Adalats' at present working in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the number of cases disposed of so far by such 'Lok Adalats' in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Lok Adalats are not regularly constituted Courts. They are organised and held on a voluntary basis by the respective Legal Aid and Advice Boards. As per the information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Scheme 49 Lok Adalats were held in Andhra Pradesh so far.

(b) 26276 cases have so far been disposed of by such Lok Adalats in the State.

Gas based industries in Andhra Pradesh

1529. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR ; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of gas based industries in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give reasonable incentives for the development of gas based industries in the state;

(c) if so, what are the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRl BRAHM DUTT); (a) At present no natural gas is being supplied to any industry in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) As per the Pricing Policy of the Government, consumers who get natural gas from fields under development will be supplied gas at concessional rates. This concession is proposed to be extended to the gas consumers in K.G. Basis.

Arrears of State Electricity Boards

1530. SHRl GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Ek-ctricity Boards owe 477 crores to Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if so, what are the details of the defaulting electricity boards and their ar-rears; and

(c) what steps have been taken t} Government to recover the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE); (a) and (b) Provisional figures of amounts due from State Electricity Boards and other power utilities to Coal India Ltd., as on 30-6-1987 are as given as under;

(Figures in lakhs of Rs)

Name of State Electricity Boards	As on 30-6-198
Bihar	5,218
Uttar Pradesh.	11,170
Orissa .	1,498
Punjab	6,909
Tamilnadu	507
Haryana.	6,050
Rajasthan	397
Maharashtra	8,611
Madhya Pradesh	4,149
Gujarat	3,323
West Bengal	1,721
West Bengal power Development Corporation	363
Andhra Pradesh	17
TOTAL SEB	49,933

Name of State Electricity Boards	As on 30-6-1987
Durgapur Project Ltd.	2,343
Damodar Valley Corporation	6,423
Delhi Electric Supply Underta king	3,561
Badarpur Thermal Power Sta tion	9,071
National Thermal Power Corpo-ration	4,890
Calcutta Electric Supply Co.	173
Ahmedabad Electric Co.	710
Others	23
TOTAL :	27,194
GRAND TOTAL :	77127

(c) The following steps are being taken to realise coal sales outstanding from the State Electricity Boards;

(i) Regular follow up action is being taken by Coal Companies and Coal India to realise outstanding dues from various Electricity Boards | Power stations .

(ii) State Electricity Boards have been raising disputes regarding coal supply bills and with holding payments of the disputed amounts. They have been advised to settle disPutes through arbitration and open letters of credit.

(iii) Central Government have decided that 80 per cent of the undisputed overdues pending for over 3 months will be recovered in six equal monthly instalments from the Central assistance to be released to the concerned Stats Government from May, 1987 onwards.

(iv) Department of Coal has also been taking up with State Governments to clear their dues expeditiously.

Safety measures in chemical industries

1531. SHRIMATl BIJOYA CHAK-RAVARTY: Will the Minister of IN-DUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether any follow-up action has been taken by Government for improvement of safety measures and devices in chemical, petrochemical and pharmaceutical units in pursuance of the report of the Inter-Ministerial Group; and

(b) if so, what are the details in. this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH); (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the In-ter-Ministeri'al Expert Group included identification and notification of hazardous sUbsances and installations, safety policy of management, identification of potential disaster areas in the country, training and improvemment of technical capabilities of operating personnel and regulatory authorities, creation of a nodal agency, etc After the submission of the report by the Expert Group, it has been circulated to all the State Governments and the concerned Ministries] Departments of Central Government for taking immediate follow-up action. Copies of the report have also been made available to the concerned industry associations. Subsequently the Department has convened two meetings : (i) meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group to discuss the action arising out of various recommendations; and (ii) meeting with concerned industry associations, Central Government Departments and some State Governments. The concerned industry association has widely circulated the report amongst its members.

The progress made in implementing the recommendations is reviewed by the Dep-artment from time to time. As a follow-up action a separate Group has also been constituted to consider the need for fiscal benefits for encouraging investments in safety.